

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/797,383

Applicant(s)

JENSON ET AL.

Examiner

Timothy L. Rude

Art Unit

2883

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 12 June 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31 and 40-44.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims

Claims 1, 17, and 23 are amended. Claims 40-44 are added.

Election/Restrictions

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 32-39 directed to species B non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 32-39 have been cancelled.

Claims 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, and 22 are rejoined due to dependence upon an allowable generic claim. All sub-species of species A are rejoined.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-31 and 40-44 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 1, 17, and 23, relevant prior art of record did not disclose nor render obvious, alone or in combination, a light pipe as claimed comprising: an arrangement of light-extraction devices being spaced along a longitudinal dimension of an active section of the light pipe wherein the light-extraction devices extend, with respect to the longitudinal axis, radially beyond an outer surface of the fluoropolymer cladding.

The closest prior art is Imamura et al (Imamura) USPAT 6,563,993 B1.

Imamura discloses a light pipe [col. 6, lines 33-63] with side-light extraction by light pipe-surface alteration, comprising:

a) an optical light pipe with a plastic light-carrying portion covered with a fluoropolymer cladding; and

b) a plurality of light-extraction devices, 1 [col. 5, lines 43-61, especially lines 56-61], spaced along an active section of the light pipe for emission of side light over a range from 1 % to 99 % of the cross-sectional circumference of the light pipe in the active region, constituting a plurality of optical elements spaced along the length of the light pipe and having inlets passing through the cladding and optically contacting the light-carrying portion;

c) the light-extraction devices having inlets passing through the cladding and optically contacting the plastic light-carrying portion [Figure 1], wherein the light-carrying portion comprises acrylic polymer [col. 4, lines 34-56].

Applicant's Figure 5a:

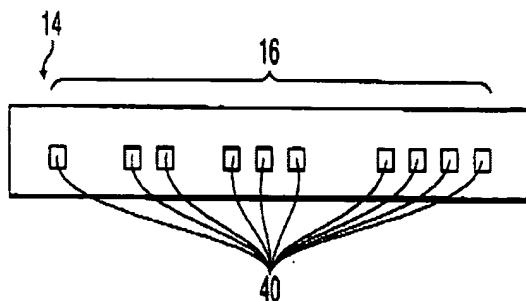


FIG. 5a

Imamura Figure 1:

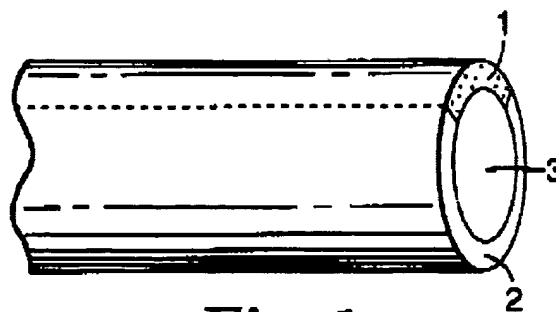


Fig. 1

However, no prior art was found with motivation to combine to comprise the claimed arrangement of light-extraction devices being spaced along a longitudinal dimension of an active section of the light pipe wherein the light-extraction devices extend, with respect to the longitudinal axis, radially beyond an outer surface of the fluoropolymer cladding.

As to claims 2-16, 18-22, 24-31, and 40-44, they directly or indirectly depend from a claim with allowable subject matter above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

References cited but not applied are relevant to the instant Application.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy L. Rude whose telephone number is (571) 272-2301. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frank G. Font can be reached on (571) 272-2415. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



tlr

Timothy L Rude
Examiner
Art Unit 2883



Frank G. Font
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800